

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars.

1. Rejection of claims 1, 3-5, 7, 10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,261,665 (*Murata et al.*)

This rejection is respectfully traversed on the basis that the *Murata* patent fails to disclose each and every element of claim 1, from which claims 3-5, 7, 10, and 12 depend. The remaining claims depend from claim 1, and are therefore patentable as containing all of the recited features of claim 1, as well as for their respective recited features.

By way of review, the embodiment of pending claim 1 requires a fingerprint easily erasable film having one surface of the film being matted. As defined on page 3, lines 26-29 of the specification as originally filed, a "matted" surface means a surface condition represented by an arithmetical mean roughness of 0.05 μm or higher in terms of the arithmetical mean roughness Ra defined in JIS-B 0601:1994. The matted surface of pending claim 1 also shows a wet tension of 25 mN/m or higher.

With the above structure according to the embodiment of pending claim 1, the ingredients of a fingerprint that have adhered to a film surface can be thinly spread when they are wiped, due to the large wet tension of the surface (specification page 5, second paragraph). Thus, once the fingerprint is wiped, no trace of the fingerprint can be detected by using a fingerprint coloring test (specification page 5, second paragraph).

The recited structure in claim 1 is thus different from prior art designs, for example Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication (KOKAI) No. 2001-98190, in which ingredients of fingerprints adhering to transparent films are in a repelled state due to wet tension being made smaller (specification page 1, fourth paragraph). Thus, the ingredients of fingerprints adhering to prior art transparent films are more easily removed due to being in the repelled state (specification page 2, line 1).

As discussed in detail below, the *Murata* patent follows the principles of the prior art in that the critical surface tension of a surface layer is not more than 20 dyne/cm (col. 9, lines 54-67). In particular, the *Murata* patent discloses that in the case where the critical surface tension of a surface layer is more than 20 dyne/cm, it is difficult for stains adhered on the surface layer to be wiped off (col. 10, lines 1-3).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the *Murata* patent fails to disclose every feature of pending claim 1. In particular, the *Murata* patent fails to disclose a fingerprint easily erasable film having a matted surface of a film showing a wet tension of 25 mN/m or higher, as is required by pending claim 1.

The *Murata* patent discloses a substrate 11 having a surface-roughened layer 12 thereon (abstract; col. 4, lines 8-11; col. 5, lines 12-13; col. 13, lines 39-42). Additionally, a surface layer (not shown in the figures) is formed on the surface-roughened layer (col. 9, lines 54-55; col. 13, lines 42-45).

The *Murata* patent does not disclose any of the substrate 11, the surface-roughened layer 12, or the surface layer being a “matted” surface, as is required by pending claim 1. As discussed above, a “matted” surface is defined in the specification as originally filed as a surface condition represented by an arithmetical mean roughness of 0.05 μ m or higher in terms of the arithmetical mean roughness Ra defined in JIS-B 0601:1994.

Further, while the *Murata* patent does disclose that the substrate 11 preferably has a surface energy of 50 dyne/cm or more (col. 4, lines 39-40), and discloses examples of a surface layers having critical tensions of between 30 dyne/cm and 45 dyne/cm (col. 17, line 43 through col. 23, line 21; Table 1), as discussed above, neither the substrate 11 nor the surface layers are disclosed as matted surfaces.

Further still, the *Murata* patent specifically discloses that when the critical tension of the surface layer is more than 20 dyne/cm, it is difficult for stains adhered on the surface to be wiped off (col. 10, lines 1-3).

Thus, the *Murata* patent both fails to disclose the structure recited in pending claim 1, and cannot perform the function of a fingerprint easily erasable film, as is required by pending claim 1, since the *Murata* patent fails to disclose a matted surface of a film showing a wet tension of 25 mN/m or higher, and the *Murata* patent specifically discloses that when surfaces have a critical tension higher than 20 dyne/cm, it is difficult to wipe off stains.

Accordingly, since the *Murata* patent fails to disclose a matted surface of a film showing a wet tension of 25 mN/m or higher, and further specifically discloses that when surfaces have a critical tension higher than 20 dyne/cm, it is difficult to wipe off stains, the *Murata* patent fails to disclose every feature of pending claim 1. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

As mentioned above, applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable and therefore, claims 3-5, 7, 10, and 12, which depend from claim 1, are also considered to be patentable as containing all of the elements of claim 1, as well as for their respective recited features.

2. Rejection of claims 2, 8, 9, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent no. 6,261,665 (*Murata et al.*) in view of U.S. patent no. 6,559,915 (*Amimori et al.*)

Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested on the basis that the rejection fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claim 1, from which claims 2, 8, 9, and 13 depend.

The deficiencies of the *Murata* patent with respect to pending claim 1 are discussed above in detail.

It is respectfully submitted that the *Amimori* patent fails to make up for the deficiencies of the *Murata* patent discussed above with respect to pending claim 1.

Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established with respect to pending claim 1, from which claims 2, 8, 9, and 13 depend, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

3. Rejection of claims 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent no. 6,261,665 (*Murata et al.*) in view of U.S. patent no. 6,716,513 (*Hasuo et al.*)

Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested on the basis that the rejection fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claim 1, from which claims 6 and 11 depend.

The shortcomings of the *Murata* patent with respect to pending claim 1 are discussed above in detail.

It is respectfully submitted that the *Hasuo* patent fails to provide for the shortcomings of the *Murata* patent discussed above with respect to pending claim 1.

Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established with respect to pending claim 1, from which claims 6 and 11 depend, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

4. Conclusion

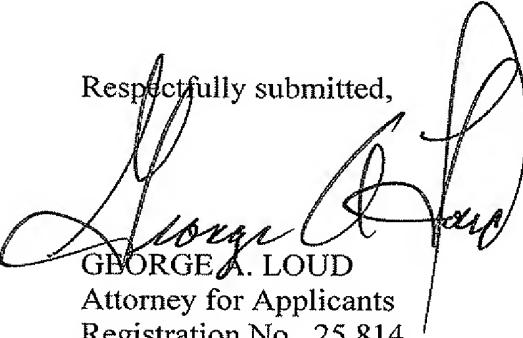
In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that every pending claim in the present application be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the applicants' attorney, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

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Respectfully submitted,


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